Multi-sectoral response for humanitarian aid planning and service provision in response to the COVID-19 and desert locust emergencies

September 2020 – May 2021

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Under the scope of the CDCS funded project, ACTED and REACH provided emergency support to tackle the spread of COVID-19 and to enhance food security of locust-affected households across South Sudan.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- 142,701 individuals across 29 communities supported through COVID-19 risk mitigation and prevention activities.
- 1,245 community leaders, teachers, market sellers and local authorities trained in COVID-19 risk and mitigation measures, rumour tracking, contingency planning, and dead body management.
- 64 individuals trained on face mask making through the provision of 106 sewing kits.
- 65 schools and 14 markets provided with handwashing points and information on how to implement COVID-19 risk mitigation measures.
- 29 communities supported with quick impact projects and community awareness campaigns to help tackle the spread of COVID-19.
- 18 boreholes rehabilitated supporting 12 communities to access clean water, enhancing their ability to implement COVID-19 risk and mitigation measures.

DESERT LOCUST RESPONSE

- 3,600 locust-affected households received seeds and tools to enhance their food security.
- 1,401 HHs supported through unconditional cash transfers (UTC).
- 900 HHs supported through cash for livestock support.
- 61 individuals trained in locust monitoring, prevention and control.

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Programme highlights!

Emergency COVID-19 Response in Jonglei:
ACTED targeted the most vulnerable with the COVID-19 response. In Jonglei, ACTED responded in two informal sites hosting over 40,000 newly displaced individuals fleeing floods. These communities had no access to basic WASH infrastructure and no external support which made them highly vulnerable to transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Taking a needs based approach, ACTED:

- Supported the establishing of a COVID-19 committee with 317 members
- Organised face mask making training
- Trained community in COVID-19 rumour mitigation
- Trained community in safe management of deceased
- Provided buckets with taps, soap, water tanks and handwashing stations

Supporting Locust Affected Households to Enhance Their Food Security:
In 2020, farmers in southeastern South Sudan faced devastating destruction of their crops due to desert locust swarms. Magwi county in particular experienced high levels of food insecurity as 60% of their crop fields were invaded by the pest. Through this intervention, ACTED supported 3,600 farmers across three payams in Eastern Equatoria, more than double the number initially planned, with high quality agricultural inputs. This included 1,030 farmers in Magwi itself. Thanks to the timely distribution of the inputs and trainings by ACTED, 99% of beneficiaries were able to plant the seeds in time for the up-coming agricultural season. The quality of the seeds provided led to hugely successful cultivation for the beneficiaries with many crops reaching over 1 meters in height within 2 months!

Left: A beneficiary in Magwi County showing ACTED teams her crop field after successful planting and germination of the seeds provided!

Responding to emergency needs in Juba:
ACTED partnered with the Ministry of Health and included three additional areas of intervention under the scope of this project to response to the surge of COVID-19 cases in the country capital; Juba. ACTED trained over 500 influencers across Juba to support vaccine uptake and slow down the transmission rate in the capital. As a result, 1 in 5 of the training participants got the COVID-19 vaccine. The collaboration with the Ministry of Health also included six radio talk shows that re-played at peak listening times spreading awareness on risks and the benefits of vaccination and material assistance in key hubs to limit transmission. This included provision of handwashing facilities and COVID-19 messaging in 65 schools and 14 market places.

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